

## Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, November 13, 1842, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, November 13, 1842.

My Dear General, I received a day or two ago your answer to my last. It was a great gratification to perceive from it how well you had gotten over your fall in the carriage. The good luck that no one was hurt, in such an over throw and under such circumstances of danger, put me in mind of what you once said to old Mr. Custis, <sup>1</sup> when he went down the bay with us to the Rip Raps. There was an appearance of a storm rising; and Custis, with some apprehension, said he never had made, and feared he never could make, his annual trip down the Bay without some disaster. You turned to him with a sort of half-suppressed quizzical smile and said "My good friend, you never travelled with me." Custis who is full of a little classical smattering thought that you had borrowed the remark from Caesar who encouraged a pilot who was unwilling to put out with him in a storm, by saying "Why do you fear, you carry Caesar." Custis looked upon it however, as a very bad translation and was quite mortified that you had applied so happily the Roman's thought to the case in hand without his terse and strained diction. He would not believe you had reliance on your own luck in travelling and that you spoke from your own confidence and well tried temperament, not from Caesars!!

<sup>1</sup> George Washington Parke Custis, grandson of Martha Washington.

I think you are as fortunate in your political as your personal career; for you live to see all the States one after another wheeling about and falling into rank under the Jackson

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Banner again. Captain Tyler, and his men here at the helm, would give a great deal, if they could at this moment blot out their ten years warfare against you; and wear your 0200 176 uniform unsullied by the memory of the abuse they have cast on it. But they find the sin of apostasy rising in Judgment against them and they feel that it is a weight which must pull them down from the high Stations, they reached, (like King Richard) by the foulest means. I have hardly conversed with a single Democrat, since the New York victory, 2 who does not speak of it as restoring you and your measures in the person of Mr. Van Buren. Indeed many of them in the fervor of their feelings have declared, they believe the country will not be content, (in case Mr. Van Buren shall be elected) unless you come on to Washington to inaugurate and give your blessing to the administration. Indeed as steam can now bring you almost the whole way, I almost indulge myself with the hope that this may happen and have half a mind sometimes to give more impluse to this ardent secretly cherished wish of the millions of hearts that love you. . . .

2 In the autumn elections of 1842 the Democrats carried New York by an overwhelming majority, electing, for instance, 25 of the 35 Congressmen.